

THE PACIFIC
Commercial Advertiser.

WALTER G. SMITH - EDITOR.

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The election of Bard to the vacant Senatorship of California is a happy settlement of the troubles which began when Dan Burns announced his candidacy. Mr. Bard is a good citizen and a lawyer of parts. He believes as a Californian ought to in expansion and the Nicaragua canal and will work for both.

A Mr. Greene of Oakland is after a judgeship in the Hawaiian Islands. So are a good many other carpet-baggers of the same name and color. It seems to be a growing impression on the Mainland, which we trust the President will check, that Hawaii is a fat goose waiting for unemployed fowl-fanciers to come and pluck.

The statement that Goebel of Kentucky was killed by friends of Sanford, the man he murdered some years ago, is not irrational. The Sanford homicide aroused deep feeling at the time and left the usual Kentucky feud. To seek Goebel out just as he was coming into his kingdom and take his life in revenge would have been a characteristic Kentucky episode.

The San Francisco Board of Health did a good thing when it passed an ordinance compelling landlords to clean and fumigate any house that they are about to lease to tenants. Heretofore there was nothing to prevent an innocent house-hunter from getting a place where there had been communicable diseases a few days before. Now the law steps in to protect him as it should.

The protest in another column against permitting taro patches, rice fields and other swamps to exist in city limits comes from a physician who hides a high professional reputation behind a 'nom de plume'. He says that these marshes breed malarial fevers as well as mosquitoes and he is right. We do not doubt that a three mile limit for water farms would be conducive to a lower death rate.

THE LITTLE-CAYPLESS JUSTA.

If the members of the House Committee on Territories knew the men who, in posing before them as representatives of Americanism in Hawaii, presume to charge the judges of the Hawaiian bench and the heads of the departments of Island government with dishonesty, they would not permit them to delay a favorable report on the Cullom bill for an hour.

The head and front of the self-chosen delegation from Hawaii is Gilbert Little of Hilo and previously of parts unknown. Little is a man whom detrimental rumors followed from the Coast and who has been known here only as a political mischief-maker and a hungry and thirsty office-seeker. Because Hawaiians did not choose to accept Little at his own valuation he declared war on the local government and is now venting his individual spleen at Washington. He would probably stop it any hour and take the other side, if assured of a judgeship. But he is not wanted here and knows it so well that he is laying plans to go elsewhere. Little's whole course at Washington is one of personal vindictiveness and spite.

Edgar Cayple is a small lawyer who came here from Seattle to represent a newspaper. He got a native Hawaiian's damage suit to press and failed to win a verdict. This soured him, and the unwillingness of the Government and the sugar-planters to employ him added to the sourness and led Cayple to take sides in politics against the existing order and to fill the columns of the paper that sent him here with untruthful statements about Island men and affairs. Individually, Cayple is a cipher in this community and the House Committee on Territories could pick up a hundred shysters on the curbstones of Washington who would be better worth hearing than Cayple on any subject.

Robert Wilcox is a political feather-head who has deserted all Island parties and taken with him the respect of none. He has been a cheap revolutionist under both the monarchy and the republic; has maligned the Queen and praised her in turn; has been an annexationist and restorationist all within three weeks. Wilcox is a jest and butt in Honolulu among natives and whites alike. The only man who has any use for him is Celso Caesar Moreno.

This man Moreno needs no characterization from us. He is known to the House Committee on Territories as a professional lobbyist who stops at nothing. He came to Hawaii several years ago as an adventurer, got an office which he held for three days, and was then kicked out of it and out of the country.

These are the men whom the House Committee on Territories is permitting to take up the public's time and to delay a measure of justice to Hawaii. They ought to be promptly turned down and out. They are too insignificant

personally and too non-representative politically to deserve considerable attention from busy law-makers.

THE WAR OUTLOOK.

The decisive battles of the Anglo-Boer war cannot be far off. At this writing the British have, or very nearly have, 213,000 men and 452 guns in the field, as against a Boer army, widely dispersed, which numbers no more than 100,000 men. Buller has crossed the Tugela, plainly intent on a flanking movement, and Lord Roberts' forces from the Cape are advancing as fast as possible toward the borders of the Orange Free State. Before they arrive the Boers will have to divide their army and with one wing of it prepare to give battle to Lord Roberts on the open veldt. This necessity must weaken the force opposed to Buller and may be the means of raising the siege of Ladysmith, Mafeking and Kimberley.

From a military point of view it looks as if the tide of war was about to turn against the burghers. Much depends, however, on the attitude of France and other European countries as to whether England will have a chance to prosecute her South African venture to the triumphal end. It must not be forgotten that just as England was on the point of crushing the American rebels France intervened and turned the scale against her. History may repeat itself. Ugly talk is heard on the boulevards, in the Parisian press and in the ranks of French publicists as well. Threats to wipe out the memory of Fashoda and to neutralize the Suez canal; hints about the possible worthlessness of the British navy and the defencelessness of British coasts are not confined to irresponsible gossipers, but are noted among men who hold in their hands the issues of peace and war. Premier Waldeck-Rousseau is quoted as having said that events may bring France a long-wished-for opportunity. Recently M. Millerand, Minister of Commerce, said to M. Viviani, editor of La Lanterne: "Unless we seize this one we will never find a safer opportunity to compel England to evacuate Egypt." Deputy Millevoix said the other day to a New York World reporter that "France bides her hour. When England has all the force she can engage employed in South Africa we need no war to obtain from her all the reasonable concessions we ask. These Britishers say their fleet can hold Europe at bay—provided Europe chooses to fight at sea. Who knows but the English fleet may lose its prestige as has the English army? Even had we no battleships England could only bombard a few unimportant colonial towns. Nowhere could she land an army and leave garrisons."

In the possibilities thus raised we have the only reasonable ground of expectation that the Boers will win. Brave—incomparably brave and daring as they are—they cannot hope to survive the impact of Great Britain's military power. If the British are let alone and given time enough they are as certain to crush resistance as a steam roller is to break cobblestones. But will they keep a free hand? That is one of the gravest questions of the day.

CLAYTON-BULWER TREATY.

The Clayton-Bulwer treaty, which Great Britain got from a weak American State Department in the days before the Civil War, stands in the way of the control by the United States of any canal which may be built to connect the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. By the terms of that instrument the ownership of the canal must be jointly vested in the United States and Great Britain. For years the United States has sought the abrogation of this treaty and has finally, through the diplomacy of Secretary Hay, obtained a new agreement, which awaits the Senate's ratification, by which Great Britain gives up her rights of partnership with the proviso that the United States, as the legatee, shall not fortify the canal terminals.

Until the new treaty has been ratified the old one must remain in force. As the former is an instrument which makes the canal practicable, restores consistency to the American position on the Monroe doctrine and opens the way for a vast commercial benefit, we hope the Senate will accept it despite the proviso about forts. To reject the treaty might set back the canal for years. So far as terminal defences are concerned they do not greatly matter. The United States could take care of the canal in the event of war by means of its fleet and by the use of obstructions in the channel and torpedo boats in Lake Nicaragua. Again, seeing that, by the time the canal had been built, the United States could probably get a modification of the clause complained of, it would be hardly the thing to reject a treaty which is so valuable in other respects on account of the one defect.

The effort of Secretary Hay to clear the path for the canal bill shows that the Administration has determined to do its best to get work on the big waterway started. That accounts for the activity among the canal men in Congress and for the favorable prospects of the amended Hepburn measure.

THE RAT CRUSADE.

Twenty thousand wooden blocks with augur holes for rat poison have been made and more are to follow. These containers are being charged and will be distributed throughout the city on Saturday next. It is the hope and expectation of the Government, the Board of Health and the Citizens Sanitary Committee, that householders will make use of them and that Saturday and the few days following will witness a mortality among rats that must make the dwelling house rodent, that natural carrier of plague infection, a rara avis in Honolulu.

An effort has been made by thoughtless people to discourage this crusade on the ground that poisoned rats will retire to their holes and die there, thus creating a nuisance. If this were to be expected it would not matter much, for a few dead rats under the floors of a house are preferable to dead men in the rooms. A bad smell is surely not so bad as the bubonic plague. But if those who set the poison are careful to put a pan or dish of water near it there will be no danger of the dying rats getting away. The poison used creates a feverish thirst. The rat that eats must get a cooling draught and will go in search of it, staying by the water until his life goes out. Where the householder does his work as he should he will find his game where he leaves the thirst-assuager.

Having killed a rat the animal must be burned. It cannot be handled safely and should be carried to the fire on a shovel or on the end of a long stick. The use of the hands in contact with the rat is dangerous; in a less but still measurable degree is the use of a dust-pan. The best thing is a long handled shovel or something shaped like it that may be made of wood and cleaned with fire or acid after being used. With this the rat, if found in the house, should be taken out of doors and either thrown into a bonfire already kindled or into a pan of coal oil which may be safely set on fire by means of a long, twisted piece of paper. One should not go near enough to the pan to use a match, for bacilli may be there in waiting. These minute organisms infect the fleas of rats as well as the rats themselves. Now let everybody make ready to lend a hand in the crusade. Chinatown is no more and when the rats are exterminated also this city, so far as its anxiety about the plague is concerned, may begin to breathe freely.

OF CURRENT INTEREST.

Boy Railroad Magnate.

The election of a boy 12 years of age as vice president of a railroad at a salary of \$5000 is the somewhat curious commercial development reported from Atlanta, Ga., says the New York Commercial. The youthful railroad "magnate" is Cornelius J. Simmons, Jr., whose father is president of the Collins Park and Belt-Line Railroad, a trolley line. The boy was nominated for the place by his fond father, and his election followed by a unanimous vote. The inference is that the elder Simmons owns the railroad, and, being the whole thing, could elect an infant at the breast as vice-president, secretary or treasurer, if he so desired. But inasmuch as almost any old kind of a railroad has certain responsibilities to the public, it would seem that this family business might very well stop somewhere near the cradle. We have the theory of "divine right" applied to kings, but that doesn't exactly mean trolley kings.

Tribute to the Queen.

Austin Dobson's brief tribute to the Queen, just published, will strike a responsive chord in the hearts of her faithful people everywhere:

Who can dwell with greatness? Greatness is too high;
Flowers are for the meadow, suns are for the sky.
Ah! but there is greatness in this land of ours
High as is the sunlight, humble as the flowers!

Queen, of thee the fable! Lady, thine the fate!
Royal, and yet lowly; lowly, and yet great—
Great in far dominion, great in pomp of years,
Greater still as woman, greatest in thy tears.

Street Car Legislation.

In the New York Legislature has been introduced a bill requiring street car companies operating in New York city to employ three persons, a gripman, a fare collector and a conductor, on all cars exceeding thirty feet in length during rush hours. The duty of the conductor is to stay on the rear platform to stop and start the car and he is prohibited from collecting fares or going inside the car.

Fitzhugh Lee's Identity.

General Fitzhugh Lee says that shortly after he had gone to Cuba he had occasion to use the telephone, and the operator at the central station asked who was talking. "Lee—Fitzhugh Lee," was the response. "Spell it, please," "F-i-t-z-h-u-g-h L-e-e." "Thank you," said the operator. Then, sotto voce, he added: "Plague take these Chinamen!"

Cruel, But Still Fortunate.

The Waterbury American quotes this passage from a child's composition on seals: "It is very cruel to kill seals just because we want to wear their skins ourselves, but it is rather fortunate for them, as it shows that they were created for some good purposes."

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat contains a statement that Honolulu's Chinatown was burned by a vigilance committee; that its site will be a park and that a dozen people are dying of the plague in this city daily.

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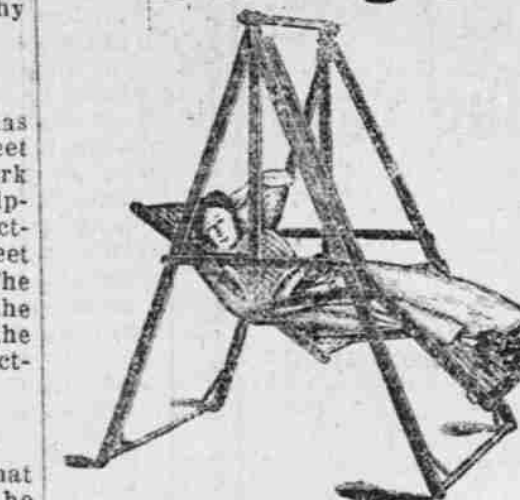
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